

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A post-operative chest support worn by a patient comprising: a chest encircling band having ~~at least~~ a portion of stretchable material that is uniformly stretchable along the entire circumference of the band and the band has a base tension, characterised in that wherein the band further comprises includes a tensioning means located within a pocket on a front surface of the band that is actuatable by the patient to vary ~~for manually varying the tension of the band~~ which are wholly or partially concealed within pockets between the base tension and another tension, such that the band automatically returns to the base tension when the patient releases the tensioning means.

2. (Original) The support according to claim 1, wherein the band has shoulder straps mounted thereon.

3. (Previously Submitted) A support according to claim 1 wherein the band is secured around the chest of a patient with hook-and-loop fasteners.

4. (Currently Amended) A support according to claim 1 wherein the tensioning means ~~for manually varying the tension comprise handles or grips~~ is a handle.

5. (Currently Amended) A support according to claim 1 ~~which is constructed from~~ wherein the band is a flexible material having a uniform width.

6. (Previously Amended) A support according to claim 1 which lacks a mechanical moving part for mechanically adjusting its tension or any other such skin irritating feature.

7. Please Cancel.

8. Please Cancel.

9. (Currently Amended) A method of altering the tension applied to a patient's chest following surgery, said method including the steps of: comprising wearing positioning a post-operative chest support according to claim 1 band across the chest of the patient wherein the band includes a stretchable material that is uniformly stretchable along the entire circumference of the band and a tensioning means positioned on a front surface of the band that is actuatable by the patient; securing the band at a base tension;
and increasing or decreasing the tension of the band by the patient applying pressure to the tensioning means for manually varying the tension of the band; and releasing the tensioning means by the user to return the band to the base tension.

10. (New) A post operative chest support for a patient comprising:

a chest encircling band of stretchable material of constant width and uniformly stretchable along the circumference of the band, wherein the band has a base tension while worn by the patient;

a tensioning means located on a front surface of the band that is actuatable by the patient to vary the tension of the band between the base tension and another

tension, such that the band automatically returns to the base tension when the patient releases the tensioning means.

11. (New) A support according to claim 10 wherein the tensioning means is a handle that is accessible by the patient.

12. (New) A support according to claim 10 wherein the tensioning means is disposed within a pocket.

13. (New) A support according to claim 10 wherein the tensioning means is removeably attached to the band.